

# 2005 STATEWIDE MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT UPDATE

## Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet Division of Waste Management

### Executive Summary

#### BACKGROUND

Kentucky has made great strides in the proper management of its solid waste since the late '60's when the first solid waste legislation was passed. Some milestones:

- *1966 - Counties began formal solid waste planning --* Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) Chapter 109 gave counties the ability to establish "109 boards" to address solid waste issues.
- *1982 - State laws were expanded --* To provide funding to counties and penalties for noncompliance.
- *1991 through 2005- Counties developed five-year plans and submitted annual reports --* Subsequent legislation furthered the development of county responsibility and state oversight. Counties develop five-year solid waste plans providing for cleanup of illegal open dumps and litter, recycling, access for all households to garbage collection and solid waste education programs. The counties submit annual progress reports to the Environmental and Public Protection Agency providing the basis for cabinet recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly.
- *1996 - Cabinet initiated illegal open dump abatement program --* The goal is to eliminate and prevent illegal open dumps across the Commonwealth.
- *1998 - Kentucky Recycling and Marketing Assistance (KRMA) --* The KRMA program and advisory board were established to develop recycling infrastructures for local governments.
- *1998 and 2001 - PRIDE Programs established --* Federal funds for local illegal open dump cleanup and solid waste education began to flow into eastern and central Kentucky counties through the establishment of the Eastern Kentucky and Bluegrass PRIDE (Personal Responsibility in a Desirable Environment) programs.
- *2001 - Kentucky Certified Clean County Program is created --* The creation of the Kentucky Certified Clean County Program (KCCCP) in 2001 provided \$4 million for cleanups of illegal open dumps for counties with mandatory garbage collection.
- *2002 - House Bill 174 provides ongoing funding --* The 2002 Kentucky legislature established a statewide, ongoing funding mechanism for the cleanup of illegal open dumps, litter and abandoned landfills. An environmental remediation fee of \$1.75/ton on waste disposed and an annual road fund allotment of \$5 million generate approximately \$15 million annually for these cleanup programs.
- *2006 - Senate Bill 50 amends the Kentucky Pride program --* The amendment creates the authority for the cabinet to provide grants for the development and expansion of recycling programs and household hazardous waste management.

#### ACHIEVEMENTS

- *Illegal open dumping declines -* Illegal open dumping has declined over 85% in the last twelve years. Over 22,900 illegal open dumps have been cleaned since 1993 at a cost of over \$57 million

dollars. There were 597 fewer dumps identified in 2005 than in 2003 – a 49% decline in two years.

- *Litter abatement activities increase* - The KY Pride fund, Eastern KY PRIDE, Bluegrass PRIDE, Department of Transportation, Adopt-A-Highway and cities and counties contributed to the cleanup of 14,635,960 pounds of litter at a cost of \$9 million during 2005. The average cost per pound of litter picked up is \$0.62.
- *Recycling* – Kentuckians recycled 24% of common household recyclables (aluminum, cardboard, steel, plastic, newspaper, glass and paper), an increase of 2% percentage points over 2004. Kentuckians recycled 29% of all municipal solid waste in 2005, which included sludge, concrete, compost, and asphalt in addition to the common household recyclables. We are recycling more but we are also creating more waste. Kentucky waste disposed in landfills increased by 234,308 tons in 2005.
- *Curbside collection increases* - Participation in curbside garbage collection has increased since 1993. HB 174 requires waste haulers and recycling haulers to register and report to each county, providing a more accurate report for curbside collection. The 2005 statewide household participation rate for all collection types is 87.73%.
- *Waste Tire Program* – The Waste Tire Trust Fund was reauthorized in the 2006 General Assembly and will be in effect until July 31, 2010. Over 1.6 million waste tires were recovered in 2005 and recycled at a cost of \$1,879,626 or \$1.17 per passenger tire equivalent (PTE). The recycled tires are used for tire-derived fuel and crumb rubber for athletic fields and schools and community parks.
- *Kentucky's crowning achievement in cleanup* - Keep America Beautiful recognized Kentucky in 2005 as the No. 1 state for waste tire cleanup and recycling during the Great American Cleanup. Kentucky contributed 1.1 million tires of the 2.2 million waste tires cleaned up and recycled nationwide during the March through May campaign.
- *Crumb Rubber Grant* - The Waste Tire Trust Fund awarded forty-seven grants totaling \$1,503,761 to assist schools and communities in projects using crumb rubber from waste tires for athletic fields, gyms, parks and community playgrounds.
- *The cabinet continues to make recycling a priority for the state:*
  - E-scrap workshops funded by an EPA grant began in October and November, 2005. The workshops addressed reuse, recycling and regulatory issues pertaining to e-scrap.
  - Developed an "E-scrap Manual" as a guide to successfully hold collection events and how to properly deal with e-scrap and its hazards.
  - Three dumpster dives were held at public high schools across the state as part of the cabinet's Earth Day initiatives. This initiative was conceived to increase awareness of recycling in Kentucky's schools.
  - A glass pulverizer was purchased by the division to loan to county recycling programs to promote different uses for glass other than landfilling or the expensive option of sending it to a glass recycler.
  - Continued the promotion and expansion of recycling by state government offices in 2005.

- The Kentucky Recycling Interest Group (KRIG) was formed in November, 2005. KRIG is composed of representatives from recycling businesses, industries, counties, cities, non-profit and environmental groups to assist the cabinet on strategies to improve recycling in Kentucky.
- Recycling initiative with state parks continued.
- *The Division of Waste Management's state government office paper recycling program thrives* – Currently serving over 115 building locations in Frankfort and collecting office paper, computer paper, newsprint and cardboard. The shredding of confidential documents provides a zero cost alternative to state and local governments with increasing volume each year. Over 2,385,720 pounds were recycled, a decrease of 24.82% over 2004. The decrease was in large part due to program slow-down for building safety concerns and designing a new building for the office paper recycling program.

## CONCLUSIONS

Kentucky households recycle approximately 24% of their household solid waste, compared to the national average of 30%.

A major component in recycling trends is the commodity markets. As with most commodity market trends, there was a decline during the same time frame, and as markets have picked up, recycling is becoming more profitable. Kentucky lacks adequate infrastructure to capitalize on these improved trends.

With the reallocation of existing funds in the Kentucky Pride Fund, it is now possible to make recycling infrastructure goals attainable. By working with our manufacturers of recycled content products, Kentuckians can recycle and divert these valuable materials away from the landfills to manufacturers for feedstock.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Initiate recycling grants to leverage limited funds into efficient and cost effective projects that will help Kentuckians develop an integrated recycling infrastructure and recycling public education program. Promote market development to add end users to Kentucky and increase economic development opportunities.

Provide Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection programs through the Kentucky Pride Fund to increase the awareness of more responsible recycling and disposal options for items such as mercury thermometers and thermostats, paints and other household hazardous wastes in our homes.

Continue efforts through education and enforcement to prevent illegal open dumping and littering and to provide funding to reduce the number of illegal open dumps and the effects of littering.



